



Nongame News



Keeping the "Spirit of America . . . ALIVE in New Jersey"

This year we're asking our readers and supporters to "tell a friend" about the check-off and how they can make a donation to help fund the research, protection and management of our state's nongame wildlife. Without this voluntary taxpayer support New Jersey would not have an Endangered and Nongame Species Program. Line 39B of this year's state tax form makes it easy to help by simply checking-off either \$2, \$5 or \$10 or entering any amount and subtracting it from your return or adding it to your balance due the state. In addition to helping our nongame wildlife you will earn a tax deduction on next year's Federal income tax.

New Jersey's most critically endangered species, the bald eagle, has been selected to help spread the word about the income tax check-off in 1986. Since 1981 Garden State residents have been asked to show their support and concern for the state's more than 400 species of nongame wildlife by checking-off a donation on their state income tax form. As most of our readers know, that support has been overwhelming. Since the check-off began more than 100,000 taxpayers each year make an average donation of about \$4.40.

Your donations will help to fund projects aimed at restoring the state's endangered and threatened wildlife. Some of last year's projects are summarized in this issue. A complete summary of all projects will be published later this year in our annual report.

In addition to research and management projects your donations are used for habitat protection and management, providing public information about our wildlife, and technical review and assessment of environmental impact statements.

If you would like to help spread the word about the check-off, or belong to an organization that would like to help, we'll be glad to supply you with the appropriate materials. Contact Mike Valent at the Northern District Office and get involved. He can be reached by calling (201) 735-5450 or writing: Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife, RD #1, Box 383, Rt. 173W, Hampton, NJ 08827.

Keep the Spirit of America



Doreen Curtin 1985

ALIVE!! *in New Jersey*

The Endangered and Nongame Species Program depends on your tax deductible donation. Check-off your contribution on line 39B of the state income tax form.

N.J. Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife
Endangered and Nongame Species Program

DELAWARE BAY SHOREBIRD PROJECT

Each year a million or so shorebirds utilize the shores of the Delaware Bay as a stopover during their spring migrations north. This area is extremely critical to the birds as they travel thousands of miles in their annual trek back to their nesting grounds. By the time the birds reach the Delaware Bay shorelines they are weak and have experienced considerable weight losses—sometimes as much as 50 percent of their normal weight. The timing of their arrival on our shorelines is no accident. It coincides perfectly with the breeding of the horseshoe crab, whose eggs provide nourishment enabling the birds to regain their strength and weight before continuing their long journey.

Until now these critical stopover areas were afforded no protection against development or other destructive uses. All that may change now due to a unique mitigation agreement between the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection and P.S.E.&G.

In order to expand a plant road, P.S.E.&G. had to fill 3 acres of wetlands. Under an Army Corp. of Engineers permit mitigation agreement they were required to replace this habitat by creating 3 acres of wetlands. After being quoted a price of \$1 million dollars for this work, Deputy Director Paul McLain of the Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife approached P.S.E.&G. officials with an alternative plan. The plan involved an agreement whereby P.S.E.&G. would provide the money to fund the restoration of 3 acres of beach and possibly purchase beaches important to the migrating shorebirds. In addition, some of the money will be used to fund further studies to determine the importance of these areas to the birds during migration.

To get a better idea of just how important these areas are, consider the following fact. On an area known as Moore's Beach, over 250,000 semipalmated sandpipers were counted in one day. This equates to about 80 percent of the world population for this species.

Research is presently being conducted to determine what impact human disturbance has on these birds. One of the primary management strategies will involve educating the public as to the importance of the area and that this is a critical time for the birds. Ultimately, restrictions may be placed on the use of these beaches during April, May and June.

Pequest Trout Hatchery Tours & Programs

The new Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife trout hatchery near Oxford in Warren County is available to the public for tours on weekends. Visitors can observe young fish in the nursery building and look out over the acres of raceways that produce 600,000 trout each year for stocking into the lakes and streams of New Jersey. The hatchery is open to the public on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Schools, youth groups, and citizen organizations may schedule a tour during weekdays, Wednesday-Friday. Schools may receive special programs in addition to the basic hatchery tour. Call Pequest for more information (201) 637-4125.

The Hatchery Open House Weekend will be held on March 22 & 23. Tours, programs and films will be offered. There is no charge for touring the hatchery.

"Wetlands of New Jersey" Report Available

The findings of the first state wetlands report, issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of its national wetlands inventory, is now available. This publication complements the 1984 report entitled, "Wetlands of the United States: Current Status and Recent Trends", which concluded that half of the country's wetlands had been lost over the past 200 years.

New Jersey's wetlands have traditionally been used for hunting, trapping, fishing, cranberry and blueberry harvest, timber and salt hay production, and livestock grazing. They were once viewed as wastelands whose best use could only be realized through "reclamation projects" which meant draining them for agriculture or filling them for industrial and residential developments. Today, there is a greater understanding that wetlands in their natural state provide numerous values to society, including water quality protection, flood protection, erosion control, and to a more limited extent, groundwater recharge.

Besides these values, wetlands provide important habitats for many types of animals, including freshwater and estuarine fishes, shorebirds, raptors, various songbirds, furbearers and deer. Most of New Jersey's rare and endangered plants are also associated with wetlands. Thus, wetlands can be considered one of our most valuable natural resources.

The 117-page report discusses wetland classification, mapping techniques, state and county wetland acreage summaries, wetland formation and hydrology, hydric soils, wetland plant communities, values, trends, and wetland protection. The report also includes a list of plants that can be found in New Jersey's wetlands and a map showing the general distribution of wetlands in the state.

Copies of the report may be purchased for \$6.00 from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Collections and Licensing, Maps and Publications Office, CN 402, Trenton, NJ 08625.

Nongame News

Published by the Endangered and Nongame Species Program of the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife within the Department of Environmental Protection. Send address changes or additions to CN 400, Trenton, New Jersey 08625. Articles published in the Nongame News may be reprinted; author credit appreciated.

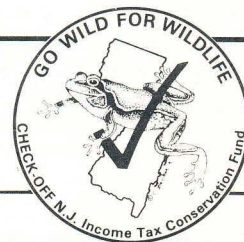
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Wetlands Purchased with State Waterfowl Stamp Revenues

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has recently purchased three valuable wetland areas thanks to revenues provided by the sale of state waterfowl stamps and art prints. As of July 1, 1984 the New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp Act required all duck hunters, 16 years of age and older, to possess both the federal and state waterfowl stamps.

All revenues from the sale of state waterfowl stamps and a portion of the cost of the art prints go into a dedicated fund for the acquisition, protection, maintenance, improvement and enhancement of waterfowl habitat and associated wetlands.

The first property purchased with stamp revenues was a 583-acre tidal marsh and upland tract in Cumberland County. This tract abuts a portion of the Heislerville Wildlife Management Area located on the Delaware Bay.

Two more tracts, Story Island, a 324-acre undisturbed marshland in Little Egg Harbor, and Shimp Farm, a 509-acre marsh and upland tract located adjacent to Mad Horse Creek Wildlife Management Area in Salem County, have also been acquired by the NJDEP.

These acquisitions represent an important step in preserving our remaining high quality coastal wetlands that are so critical to a wide variety of wildlife. In addition to the abundant waterfowl species found there, the areas are home to muskrats, raccoons, river otters, opossum, star-nosed moles, various species of mice and voles, marsh wrens, red-winged blackbirds, northern harriers, and diamond-backed terrapins to name a few.

The areas will provide more open space for all types of recreation including hiking, bird watching, fishing, crabbing and nature photography.

In just a short time revenues from waterfowl stamp sales



"1985 NEW JERSEY DUCK STAMP PRINT by David Maass"

have enabled the state to purchase nearly 1,500 acres of important wildlife habitat. The 1985-86 stamp, by noted wildlife artist David Maass, depicts a pair of mallards taking flight from a coastal marsh. The stamps are available from any state hunting and fishing license agent and from the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, Waterfowl Stamp, CN 400, Trenton, NJ 08625. Prints are available from any local wildlife art dealer.

This program offers hunters and non-hunters alike an opportunity to help conserve valuable wildlife habitat. In addition, you will be making an exceptional investment in wildlife art which is sure to appreciate in value.

CLEAN WATER WEEK, 1986

New Jersey's second Clean Water Week, slated for May 4-10, 1986, will be highlighted by a week of public education on the importance of water and how our water resources can and must be protected.

The focus of Clean Water Week will be primarily on activities at the local level. Sponsors are encouraging local water supply and treatment facilities, environmental commissions, environmental and community organizations to join in preparing programs of public education during Clean Water Week. Activities may include plant tours, town forums, fairs and distribution of posters, bumper stickers and educational materials.

Schools are also being encouraged to become involved by participating in this year's DEP poster and essay contests. In addition, the DEP is making available to teachers Water Awareness Activity Packets to teach water topics during Clean Water Week. The DEP will also send, upon request, water conservation posters and brochures. To get your Water Awareness Activity Packet contact Judy Morgan, Water Resources, CN 029, Trenton, NJ 08625; or call (609) 633-3717.

Discover Wildlife in Your World National Wildlife Week • March 16-22, 1986

Wildlife lives in the world all around us; in our parks, schoolyards and even our own backyards. Discovering and appreciating the wildlife in our world is the theme for National Wildlife Week in '86. Teachers are invited to get involved by sending for a free information packet. Each packet includes two color posters, an educator's guide, wildlife stamps and a catalog of teaching materials. The posters provide information on where to look for wildlife in deserts, forests, rivers, and even backyards. The educator's guide includes background information, a glossary, activities and a bibliography.

The activities are divided into four grade levels (K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12). The activities were designed so the discovery of wildlife can be integrated with lessons in language arts, science, social studies, and art.

To get a free packet send your request to: National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-2266

Summary of 1985 Research and Management Projects

During 1985 the Endangered and Nongame Species Program conducted a total of 26 projects involving 58 species of endangered, threatened and nongame wildlife. Some of these represented a continuation of past projects and others were started in 1985. The following information represents a capsule summary of several of these projects and includes preliminary results. The 1985 Annual Report, which will be available later this year, will give more detailed information for all of the projects conducted during 1985.

BALD EAGLE

In 1985 the ENSP continued with its ambitious efforts to restore the bald eagle population in New Jersey. Beginning with the egg swap in March, biologists removed the two eggs from the nest tree in Cumberland County's Bear Swamp to be incubated at the US Fish and Wildlife's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Both of the eggs hatched in April; however, due to the size differences in the eaglets it was decided that two captive bred eaglets of the same size would be placed into the nest. This was successfully completed on April 20th with the adults readily accepting the chicks. The swap was declared a success when both young eagles fledged from the nest in early July.



On a different front, 10 young eagles were acquired from Manitoba for New Jersey's hacking project through a cooperative agreement between the Manitoba Department of Natural Resources, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the ENSP. The young eagles were taken from productive nests in northern Manitoba by a team of biologists and then flown to Philadelphia International Airport. The eagles arrived on July 12, 1985 where they were inspected by a team of veterinarians from the Philadelphia Zoo. After it was determined that the birds were healthy they were taken to the Cumberland County hack site where they were placed in hack towers overlooking a Delaware Bay salt marsh. Here the birds were held and raised until they were capable of flight.

Determining the proper time for the release of the birds is critical to the success of the hacking project. If the birds are released too late they may leave the area around the hacking tower before a strong bond is formed. The proper timing for release is determined by inspecting the shafts of the tail feathers. When they have hardened sufficiently the birds are banded and tagged with identifying markers prior to their release.

The first eagle release took place on August 1st when four of the birds were liberated from the tower. These birds were marked with colored tags (orange, blue, yellow or white)

attached to the leg bands. The second release occurred on August 10th with two birds being liberated. These birds were fitted with green patagial tags (on the wings) marked with the numerals 1 and 2. The third release was completed on August 17th with the final 4 eaglets being released. These birds were marked by painting each of their tails with one of the colors red, blue, yellow and white.

The eagle project received an unexpected bonus this year when an orphaned six week old eaglet was donated to New Jersey by Manitoba wildlife officials. It seems that some Manitoba loggers inadvertently cut down the nest tree causing the adults to abandon it. The bird was flown to New Jersey and raised in the hack tower until it was ready for release. This eagle was marked with a green patagial tag bearing a white crescent.

Eagle hacking project leader Larry Niles has reported that the 1985 hacking work has been the most successful to date. This is primarily due to the amount of time that the eagles remained in the area around the tower after their release. The range of stay around the tower was between 49 and 70 days with the average stay being 60 days. Last year the birds remained around the towers for an average of 40 days. This represents an increase in stay of 20 days per bird for 1985. Mr. Niles attributes this increase in stay to better methods of determining the proper age for the release of the birds, habitat improvement around the hack tower, and a reduced amount of disturbance in the area around the tower.

One unfortunate incident occurred this year when biologists found one of the hacked eaglets dead while tracking their movements using radio telemetry equipment. The carcass was sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Health Laboratory. Their report confirmed that the eagle died from electrocution.

Larry Niles is asking that any eagle sightings be reported to him by calling (609) 292-9400 or (609) 628-2103.

OSPREY

Osprey productivity increased in 1985 even though the total number of nesting pairs increased by just one. There were 109 active nests along the Atlantic and Delaware Bay coastlines in 1985. The average number of chicks per active nest however, increased from 1.16 chicks/active nest in 1984 to 1.40 chicks/active nest in 1985.

The coastal osprey population in New Jersey has fared quite well as a result of the management efforts of the Endangered and Nongame Species Program. So well in fact that the osprey's status in the Garden State was upgraded from endangered to threatened on May 6, 1985.

A new phase in the management of New Jersey's osprey was initiated in 1985. Jim Sciascia headed the work to reintroduce the osprey to inland areas of north Jersey where they once nested. The same hacking technique used in the eagle project was employed in the osprey reintroduction effort.

With assistance and materials donated by New Jersey Bell Telephone Company, two hacking towers were constructed on property owned by the City of Newark and managed by the Newark Watershed Conservation and Development Corporation. On July 16th Program biologists removed six



young osprey from productive nests along the New Jersey coast. For the three weeks to follow the birds were fed and observed in the towers until they were ready for release. The aging technique used in the eagle project cannot be used with osprey because they are able to fly before the shafts of the tail feathers harden. The proper timing for release of the ospreys was determined by observing their behavior in the towers. Young osprey will grasp a perch firmly with their talons while flapping their wings vigorously. By observing the amount and intensity of this exercise, biologists can determine the proper timing for release.

The osprey were fitted with numbered tags on their wings that are visible when the birds are perched or in flight. The doors of the hacking towers were opened during the last week of July and within a couple days all 6 birds had successfully fledged from the towers. Attendants continued to place fresh fish on the towers for several weeks both to keep the birds in the area and to sustain them until they mastered their fishing techniques. The osprey remained in the area around the towers until the beginning of September.

The osprey hacking project could begin yielding positive results, in the form of nesting osprey pairs, in as little as three years when the birds reach reproductive maturity. The project is scheduled to continue for at least several more years.

LEAST TERN

Last year's colonial waterbird survey indicated a statewide decline in both the number of least tern colonies and the number of young produced as compared to the 1984 survey. The number of colonies statewide declined from 23 in '84 to 16 in '85.

Nineteen eighty-five marked the establishment of the New Jersey Colonial Waterbird Conservation Coalition. The coalition

is comprised of resource agencies, conservation organizations and individuals all with an interest in helping to preserve New Jersey's beach nesting birds.

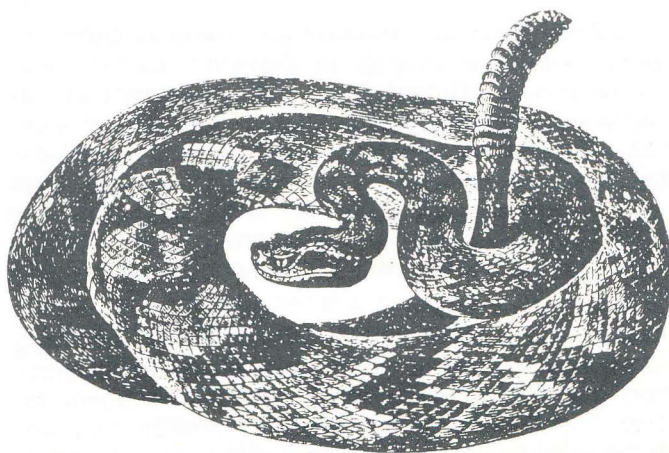
Volunteers from the coalition assisted in several of the Program's projects to protect these beach nesting birds. These included enclosing the colonies with snow fencing to reduce human disturbance, wrack building and volunteer wardening of the larger colonies. For the first time all four of the state's major colonies (Brigantine, Corson's Inlet, Holgate and Sandy Hook) were patrolled by paid or active volunteer wardens. As a result of these efforts, human disturbance was greatly curtailed at most colonies. Unfortunately, some colonies experienced unusually high predation losses from gulls, fox, owls, and rats. Other colonies suffered losses due to tidal flooding. Thus, overall production was lower this year than last. Future management plans include an increased effort to reduce losses from predation.

TIMBER RATTLESNAKE

In 1983 a study was begun to determine the habitat utilization, habitat selection, and home-range of the endangered timber rattlesnake in the pinelands of New Jersey. Researchers, using radio telemetry equipment, have been able to gather some fascinating information on this secretive and misunderstood species. Currently, researchers under contract with the ENSP have implanted transmitters in 7 adult males, 23 adult females and 4 new born rattlesnakes.

So far researchers have determined that home-ranges are larger than once believed and that males have a home-range of approx. 125 acres. Nongravid (not pregnant) females also demonstrate large home-ranges up to 116 acres. It was found that gravid females seek open, sunny locations such as roadsides and field edges in order to maximize sun exposure. Solar radiation aids in the development of the young rattlesnakes within the female's body. It appears that the gravid females do not eat during this time and spend most of the time basking. Males and non-gravid females seek food (small rodents) in the pine-oak forest, hardwood swamps and lowland pitch pine forests.

Information on the habitat requirements of this endangered reptile will better enable biologists to manage for and protect it.



President's Commission On American Outdoors

Americans have always cherished the "great outdoors" and the leisure time that they spend outdoors. This love for the outdoors is evidenced by the great increase in demand for outdoor recreation opportunities. One problem has been that this demand has created a need for more land and water resources available for recreation.

The citizens of New Jersey—the most urbanized state in the country—realized this need and voted to establish the Green Acres Bond Issue back in 1961. Since that time Green Acres has provided money to help pay for 233,827 acres for some 600 state and county parks and recreation areas throughout the state.

These accomplishments, however, would not have been as impressive without federal funds made available to the states through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. The fund came at an opportune time as it supplemented Green Acres monies for planning, development and some additional acquisitions.

The Land and Water Fund program was established on the recommendations of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC). The ORRRC was created by Congress in 1958 to look at what Americans were doing—and wanted to do—outdoors. The Commission's recommendations have shaped outdoor recreation programs for the past 2 decades. Their 1962 report to President Kennedy and the Congress led to the Wilderness Preservation Act, the National Trail System Act and a long list of other important measures resulting in cleaner water, more rural, urban and wilderness recreation opportunities, and a greater emphasis on intelligent planning and use of our outdoors.

In 1982, a review group assessed the work and accomplishments of the ORRRC and recommended formation of a new commission to look at the outdoor needs of the next generation of Americans. Wide-ranging changes in our society such as more leisure time, more money to spend, more single-parent families, and less available land have altered the demand for recreation and the resources to provide it.

The resources to provide recreation is an especially important consideration because the Land and Water Fund will expire in 1989 unless we can convince Congress to reauthorize it.

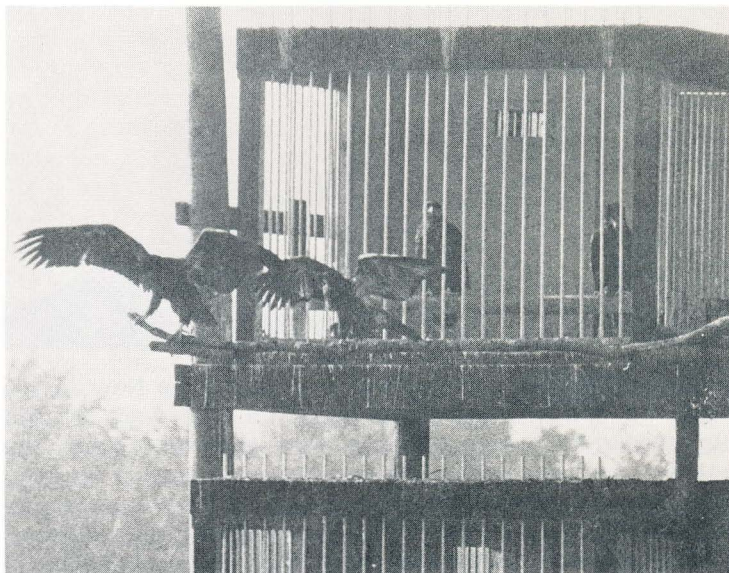
The new President's Commission on American Outdoors is a 15-member panel chaired by Governor Lamar Alexander of Tennessee. Gilbert Grosvenor, President of National Geographic Society, has been appointed as the Vice-Chairman. The members possess a broad range of experience and represent a full spectrum of interests, both public and private, regarding outdoor affairs. Based on the Commission's findings, recommendations will be made to help insure that the future needs of the American public can be met.

Why is all of this important to New Jersey? Because during the next 25 years, more of the responsibility for outdoor recreation will shift to state, local and private agencies. Therefore, it is important that the Commission fully appreciate the existing network of parks and recreation areas

formed by state and local agencies with federal assistance. They must understand that federal assistance must continue if this network of public lands is to grow with the recreational needs of our citizens. In short, programs like the Land and Water Fund must be extended or replaced.

You can get involved by letting the Commission know what you think the recreational needs of the future are and how they should be financed. Send your suggestions to: P.C.A.O., Box 18547, 1111 20th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

New Jersey's "Adopt-An-Eagle" Program



The Endangered and Nongame Species Program is again encouraging interested school, conservation and civic groups to participate in the efforts to restore New Jersey's bald eagle population. Your group can sponsor the acquisition, transportation and ultimate release of a Canadian bald eagle for the Program's hacking project. Last year students of the Haddonfield Middle School became the first group to "Adopt-An-Eagle" by raising nearly \$6,500.00 to offset the cost of acquiring and raising two Canadian eaglets.

This year the ENSP will be getting 10 more eagles for release in New Jersey. By raising \$3,500.00, your group can sponsor an eagle for the restoration project. Sponsoring groups can select a name for the bird which will be inscribed on a permanent leg band prior to the bird's release. In addition, a video cassette of the bird, and its release, will be presented to your group as a permanent record of your involvement with the eagle program. More importantly though, participants will gain a greater appreciation for our environment and have the satisfaction of knowing that they have helped to preserve our national symbol here in New Jersey.

For more information on how your group can participate in the "Adopt-An-Eagle" program contact Larry Niles, Eagle Project Leader, Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife, Endangered and Nongame Species Program, CN 400, Trenton, NJ 08625.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Seventh Annual Poster and Junior High Essay Contest

POSTER CONTEST

Our general theme this year centers around the topic of **Water in New Jersey**. Once again, we have designated specific themes for the individual entry levels.

Primary (K-3)	How do I use water?
Intermediate (4-6)	Water uses in New Jersey.
Junior High (7-9)	Sources of Water.
Senior High (9-12)	Quality Water—Now and in the future.
Special Education	Water uses in New Jersey.

(Classifies students in self-contained class)

An additional topic for all entry levels is **CLEAN WATER WEEK 1986**. You may enter either one or both categories within the individual entry levels. All entries must adhere to the following rules.

Entries may be no larger than 20" X 27".

Entries must be original. No copyrighted characters will be eligible.

All entries will become the property of the Department of Environmental Protection.

Entries should follow the specific theme and will be judged on originality, presentation, and adherence to theme.

All entries must be received by **March 21, 1986**.

Submit entries to: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Environmental Awareness & Education Program
Poster Contest
CN 408
Trenton, NJ 08625

Direct any questions to (609) 984-7478.

Posters must be identified on the back, lower left-hand corner: Student's name, address, and phone number
School name, address, and phone number
Entry Level

Any posters not so identified will be disqualified upon receipt.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST

THEME: How do we guarantee quality water for now and the future?

All entries must be no more than 500 words, typed doubled spaced.

Entries should follow the theme and will be judged on originality, technical soundness, organization and content.

Submit entries to: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Environmental Awareness & Education Program
Junior High Essay Contest
CN 408
Trenton, NJ 08625

All entries become the property of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

All entries must be received by **March 21, 1986**.

Place the following information on a separate cover sheet: Student's name, address, and phone number
School name, address, and phone number
Grade

Problem Wildlife Booklet Available

The Indian Creek Nature Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa has recently published a fact-filled booklet giving tips on how to prevent or deal with problems caused by 12 types of common urban wildlife. If you've ever awakened to find a bat flying about your bedroom, had your prized vegetables "pruned" by a woodchuck or been awakened at 5 AM by the jackhammer-like sound of a woodpecker on your chimney flashing you will appreciate the value of this booklet. We have reviewed a copy of the booklet and have found it to be very informative and practical.

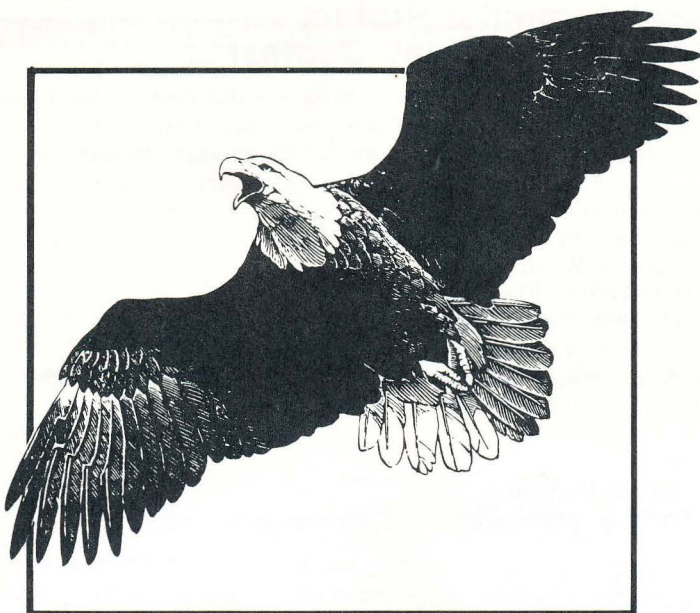
To get your copy of "There's a Bat In The Attic And A Woodchuck In The Garden", simply send \$3.00 (check or money order) to:

Indian Creek Nature Center
6665 Otis Road, SE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT AVAILABLE

The Endangered and Nongame Species Program will again be hiring a number of seasonal interns to work on a variety of upcoming projects scheduled for the 1986 field season. The length of employment will vary depending on the project; however most positions should last approximately 8 weeks. Among the projects having available positions are the woodrat, bald eagle hacking, osprey hacking, wildlife management area cover mapping and beach-nesting bird management.

Interns will assume general research and management responsibilities depending on the project. Living quarters will be made available for those working on some of the projects. Any interested persons should send a letter stating their interest along with a resume to Larry Niles, Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife, ENSP, CN 400, Trenton, NJ 08625.



WINTER EAGLE SURVEY

New Jersey's annual statewide midwinter eagle survey took place on January 10th and 11th with observers counting a total of twenty-eight endangered bald eagles and one golden eagle. The survey, conducted with the aid of helicopters, boats and ground vantage points, was part of a nationwide effort to determine the wintering-population status of our national symbol.

Endangered and Nongame Species Program biologists coordinated the survey which covered wintering areas along the upper Delaware River, Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge and along the Delaware Bay. Fourteen eagles were spotted along the upper Delaware River, including one immature golden eagle, six eagles were counted near the Forsythe Refuge and the rivers that flow into the areas, and nine eagles were seen in the Delaware Bay area.

Survey efforts received a big boost when helicopter services from the 150th Aviation Battalion of the New Jersey Army National Guard were donated to aid in the count. The

aerial support enabled Division Biologists to search for eagles in previously inaccessible areas of the state.

The increased number of wintering eagles may very well be due to restoration efforts being conducted in New Jersey and other northeastern states. Included in the statewide count was an immature bald eagle that was released last year in upstate New York.

On the national scene, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) reported that in 1985 more than half of the 38 participating states recorded greater eagle numbers than in the 1984 count.

Maurice LeFranc, director of NWF's Institute of Wildlife Research, felt the higher 1985 figures might be a result of "ideal counting conditions". In previous years the survey was hampered by harsh weather conditions in key areas of the country. These annual changes in conditions make it difficult to draw conclusions about population trends from the survey's results.

CITY TREES

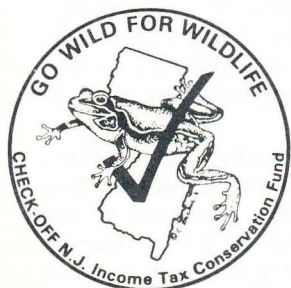
Many of our cities plant shade trees along their streets as part of their community beautification programs. In addition to their aesthetic appeal, these trees provide important habitat for urban wildlife. Unfortunately, a large percentage of these trees survive for only a short period in these harsh environments. In fact, almost half of the trees planted in New York City will die within 10 years. In a recent study conducted by Cornell University, researchers found that the trees were dying due to a lack of water. It seems that the root systems, confined by concrete, underground utility pipes and subways, cannot reach underground water supplies. At the same time, the above ground portion of the trees are subjected to reflected heat from parked cars, pavement and buildings, and as a result transpire excessively. Researchers have likened these city environments to that of deserts.

Fortunately, in most cases, a regular watering program can prevent the loss of these urban wildlife habitats and keep our city streets in the shade.

ENDANGERED AND NONGAME SPECIES PROGRAM

Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife
CN 400
Trenton, N.J. 08625
609-292-9400

BULK RATE
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Endangered and Nongame Species Program

"It's a learning
experience and a
fun weekend ..."

wildlife workshops for teachers

Marine and Estuarine Wildlife-
May 2, 3, and 4, 1986 at the Marine
Sciences Consortium, Seaville,
New Jersey

Upland and Freshwater Wildlife-
June 6, 7, and 8, 1986 at the New
Jersey State School of Conservation
in Stokes State Forest, Branchville,
New Jersey.

These workshops are sponsored and conducted by the Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife. These weekend workshops are designed to give teachers the background to teach environmental concepts using the wildlife resource. Rutgers University will award one graduate-undergraduate credit for those working on advanced degrees or wanting inservice training credit.

The courses are taught in the field by professional wildlife biologists. The May 2, 3, and 4 workshop will be held at the Marine Sciences Consortium at Seaville, New Jersey in Cape May County. It will concentrate on wildlife resources in the marine environment. The workshop on June 6, 7, and 8 will be held at the New Jersey School of Conservation and will emphasize upland and freshwater wildlife.

These wildlife workshops have been in operation for the past ten years and in that period over 1600 students (teachers) have taken the course.

**For further information and
registration forms contact:**

**N.J., Div. of Fish, Game and Wildlife
Wildlife Education Unit
Pequest Rd., R.R. 1, Box 389
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